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CAP cadets get insight on AF life

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One hundred and fifty Civil Air Patrol cadets from New Jersey and a few from across the nation arrived here July 24 for their annual cadet encampment. The cadets will conclude their week of training Sunday.

Separated into five flights, the cadets participated in tours of McGuire units, orientation flights in military and CAP aircraft, and leadership and physical training including activities at the Fort Dix Leadership Reaction Course and obstacle course.

Encampments such as this one provide CAP members the opportunity to apply knowledge gained in the CAP adult and cadet programs to practical situations, said Bruce Berner, New Jersey and Pennsylvania CAP-USAF Liaison.

Cadets have an opportunity to develop a greater understanding of CAP and Air Force missions and capabilities, develop their leadership potential, enhance interpersonal relationship skills and develop time-management skills. These are only a few of the great things that summer encampment teaches the cadets, he said.

Encampment is one of many activities offered through the CAP cadet program. The CAP cadet program allows young people to progress at their own pace through a 16-step pro-



Courtesy photo

Cadets stand at attention as CAP instructors perform a dress and appearance inspection. During their stay here, the cadets participated in various activities, to include; tours of McGuire units, orientation flights in military and CAP aircraft and leadership and physical training including activities to help promote team building.

gram that includes aerospace education, leadership training, physical fitness and moral leadership.

"While there are many youth oriented programs in America today," said Mr. Berner "CAP's cadet program is unique using aviation as a cornerstone. Thousands of young people from age 12 to 21 are introduced to aviation every year through CAP's cadet program."

Cadets compete for academic scholarships to further their studies in

fields such as engineering, science, aircraft mechanics, aerospace medicine, meteorology, as well as many others. Those cadets who earn cadet officer status may enter the Air Force as an E-3 rather than E-1.

Maj. Lisa Van Clief, CAP Public Affairs Officer concurred, "This is a great program. There are too many success stories to mention just one. Civil Air Patrol has helped cadets in countless ways, such as increasing confidence and getting a great start on their future."

The New Jersey CAP Wing staff meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays in Building 3412. The Major Thomas B. McGuire Jr. Composite Squadron (adult members and cadets) meets at 7 p.m. Mondays in Building 3412. Youth 12 and up and adults 18 and up including active duty, Guard, Reserve and retired military personnel are eligible for membership.

For more information on the Civil Air Patrol log on to www.cap.gov or www.njwg.cap.gov or call 609 754-2891.